

***COMPETES Act Aims to Keep American Workforce Competitive with Boosts Research and Development, Workforce Skills and Education***

Washington, DC – Congressman John Adler today voted for the COMPETES Reauthorization Act, a bill which improves workforce and education innovation. The three year reauthorization bill passed by the House today intends to foster innovation and basic research, create jobs and support the manufacturing industry, and advance Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

"Americans are the most skilled and productive workforce in the world," Congressman John Adler said. "This bill will give working men and women the tools and knowledge to stay competitive in an increasingly global economy. We must continue to boost the private sector to create and retain more American jobs."

The COMPETES Act has the support of the National Association of Manufacturers, the Chamber of Commerce, the Council on Competitiveness and the Business Roundtable. Major benefits of the bill include:

- Better Innovation and Basic Research – This bill reauthorizes existing federal research programs and creates new ones. About two-thirds of basic research is supported by federal agencies. A new report demonstrates the economic importance of research by identifying 100 companies benefiting from federal research that now employ 100,000 people.
- Create Jobs and Support the Manufacturing Industry – COMPETES will provide federal loan guarantees for innovative technology, assist small- and medium-sized manufacturers in reducing energy use, and authorize new and existing manufacturing assistance programs.
- Improve STEM Education – COMPETES will expand and create better access to scholarship and grant programs, coordinate STEM education programs across federal agencies, and work to increase participation by women and minorities in the STEM field.